State Government in this matter ? I would also like to know whether any time frame has been given or has been evolved by Centre in consultation with the State Governments for the implementation of the Award. As you know, the whole House is exercised about their issue. This is important and no Member here would like the Award go unimplemented for long.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : It is not a fact that I have appealed only to the hon. Members. In my reply to the first Supplementary I have appealed to the State Governments also. We have been reminding the State Governments and my colleague, the Deputy Minister, has addressed letters to the Labour Ministers of the States. We have suggested to them that there should be a tripartite committee constituted at every State level to monitor and to see the implementation of the Bachawat Award. That we have impressed upon the State Governments. Sir, we are awaiting their reply.

**श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम** :आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, आज की दुनियां में अखबार की सेवायें बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं ।

**श्री सभापति** : संक्षेप में पूछिए ।

**श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम** : सर, मैं बहुत छोटा सा सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं । माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया कि बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को कुछ अखबारों ने लागू किया है और कुछ अखबारों ने लागू नहीं किया है : तो मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में या सरकार की तरफ से कोई ऐसा मानक या स्टेण्डर्ड निर्धारित किया गया है कि छोटे अखबार या बहुत से बड़े अखबार, जिनकी बाध्यता होगी कि वह स्वयं बछावत कमीशन की रिपोर्ट को लागू करें ? क्योंकि अभी हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि छोटे अखबारों को इससे छूट दी जानी चाहिए। तो क्या कोई ऐसा स्टेण्डर्ड उसमें निर्धारित किया गया है कि किन अखबारों को मानना पड़ेगा और किन अखबारों को उनसे छूट मिल सकेगी ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member hundred per cent that the newspapers are doing a very important service to the nation. There is no dispute about that at all. As far as the categorisation is concerned of various newspapers, I have already stated that Bachawat Wage Board has made nine categories of the newspaper establishments on the basis of the gross revenue and gross turn over. It is this very categorisation which is being challenged in the Supreme Court. That is the point which I have already answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Q No. 62.

**Production target of Bharat Electronics Limited**

*62. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the production target of Bharat Electronics Limited for the current financial year;

(b) what was the sales turn-over of BEL during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some new units of BEL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The production target of Bharat Electronics Limited for the current financial year (1992-93) is Rs. 834 crores.

(b) The sales turn-over of BEL during the last three years was as under :—

| Year | Sales Turn-Over |
|---|---|
| | (Rs. in crores) |
| 1989-90 | 645 |
| 1990-91 | 724 |
| 1991-92 | 724 |
| | (Provisonal) |

(c) and (d). Bharat Electronics Limited proposes to set up a Service Centre at Naval Physical Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Cochin, on land to be provided by NPOL, for the maintenance and calibration of underwater transducers.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, my first supplementary is from the answer of the Minister that Bharat Electronics Limited is one of the moderately successful public sector undertakings compared to many others which are under review. I see that the only expansion plan is in one laboratory in Cochin. I want to know from the Minister why Bharat Electronics Limited does not have ambitious plans for upgrading its technology by importing the latest technology from abroad rather than allowing multinationals to come and to make the same production? We have now in Bharat Electronics Limited 20,000 workers. We have now six or seven units. We have got a good brand of labs within the organisation. Why does the Government not consider upgrading its technology by getting the best technology from the West and upgrading Bharat Electronics Limited to a level where most of the defence equipment can be manufactured by us and even outside defence? Why ambitious plans are not being made instead of a small laboratory as given by the Minister?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I would like to answer the question in two parts. Our basic policy framework in relation to the new public sector undertakings in the defence sector is that we will not like to create new capacity in the public sector where capacity is available in the private sector of the economy. But the capacity utilisation of Bharat Electronics is sought to be improved. It is not as yet optimal. We have a perspective plan for five years by which the sales turn-over is expected to be doubled to about Rs. 1500 crores. There are various foreign collaborations being entered into, various new product ranges are being negotiated and plans for R&D work are being done. So after the capacity is fully utilised, when there is a need for new undertakings and such capacity is not available in the private sector, there is no bar or there is no objection to starting new public sector undertaking under Bharat Electronics Limited. This is something in the future.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : My second supplementary is this. As per the annual report of Bharat Electronics, the Board of Directors themselves have said that they want to expand its area, outside defence to be able to maintain its growth rate which was 25 to 32 per cent during the Seventh Plan period. What the Minister has said in reply to my first supplementary is not quite correct in the long run. You may not add to your capacity. But, in the field of electronics, there is faster obsolescence. Unless you have made up your technology, if the newer private sector undertakings or multinatonals come in the field, you will not be able to use even the existing capacity of Bharat Electronics. Its products will become unsaleable. I want to know from the Minister whether specially there are rural automatic exchanges being made by Bharat Electronics with a massive plan in the Department of Telecommunications. We read in the newspapers every day that 30 companies have quoted for car telephones and cellular telephones. Why cannot Bharat Electronics which is a public sector undertakings within the control of the Defence Ministry take up massive production of electronic equipment required in the country rather than allowing new units? I am not asking you to create additional capacity. I am only asking you to utilise your existing capacity in a manner beneficial to the country.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As has been mentioned, Rs. 724 crores last year and Rs. 834 crores this year are the total sales turnover of the company. Of this, 55 per cent is sold to the defence sector and 33 per cent to other States sectors like information and broadcasting, telecommunications and so on. And only 12 per cent is sold to the private sector. Not only in respect of Bharat Electronics, but in respect of each of the eight defence public sector undertakings of the country, it has been our endeavour to increase the proportion of sales to the civil sector because of the constraints in the defence budget and the order position resulting from it.

Therefore, improving the sales to the civil sector is one of our major areas of concern. We have, in fact, started a very ambitious, dynamic, marketing organisation to improve it. We shall explore the avenues of joint venture Market promotion is being attempted. This shall be our endeavour. There is no laxit on our part; nor is there under-utilisation of capacity with respect to sales to this sector.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, the performance of Bharat Electronics has been good for the last four or five years. Especially last year, I think, on the export front too, it has been good. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether BEL shares have been sold in the first round of disinvestment and if so, I would like him to give us the details thereof. Is the Government planning to disinvest the shares of defence public sector units? And is the Government thinking of converting ordnance factories into public sectors units and disinvesting there too?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the the subject of disinvestment in public sector undertakings is coordinated by the Finance Ministry. Two defence undertakings, out of the eight, where disinvestments have taken place are Bharat Earthmovers and Bharat Electronics and the disinvestment is to the extent of 20 per cent to financial institutions and mutual funds.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Twenty per cent?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Yes, 20 per cent in respect of two of the eight defence public sactor undertakings. As a matter of policy the defence public sector undertakings have to be treated on a separate footing from the general class of public sector undertakings because of the control the Government may like to keep in view of strategic and other considerations. We are in touch with the Finance Ministry in the matter.

As far as ordnance factories are concerned, they are departmental undertakings as of now. They do not charge profit on the basis of cost. The cost is defrayed and debited. We have given sufficient delegation of authority to the ordnance factories to improve their working. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government as of now to convert them into public sector undertakings under the company law.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, almost a revolution is taking place in the field of electronics and the increase in sales given in the reply of the Minister is not commensurate with the pattern of growth of most other electronic companies all over the world. Now, I believe, one of the constraints for the public sector is the availability of dollars. Some private Indian companies have gone into the international market for raising the dollar equity. Does the Government have plans to go to the international market to mobilise equity for the premier electronic Company?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the question of expansion of equity is not at present under the consideration of the Government. We will cross the bridge when we come to it. But these public sector undertakings are at liberty to buy foreign exchange for their import requirements. Previously foreign exchange had to be allocated. Now, they are at liberty to buy from the market and meet theis requirements though it will be slightly costlier.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now the Minister, said that about 20 per cent disinvestment is done in two public sector undertakings in the defence sector. The average is 8 per cent. The average of other companies who have made disinvesement is about 8 per cent. But the Defence Department is going very fast. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what devidend the Government had declared in the last year. So far as your turn-over is concerned, it is static. It is not increasing for the last two years. In spite of that, there is increase in the price. I would like to know whether it is due to lesser capacity utilisation or whether there is financial crunch because of which you are not able to exploit your total resources fully. At what

price have they sold your shares? What was the value per share and at what price have you sold it and what is the increase in value of the shares?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, as I said earlier, the evaluation of the shares etc. is done by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the public sector financial institutions. The dividend last year was Rs. 9.6 crores. (Interruptions) As regards the BEL to which the main question refers, we have certain information from the Canara Bank which is one of the financial institutions. They have paid Rs. 6.16 crores for 11.8 lakh shares roughly. For the face value of 1.18 crores, the payment has been Rs. 6.16 crores or five-times the face value. It has been sold at five times the face value.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, so far as Bharat Electronics Limited is concerned, it is one of the Defence undertakings which has the reputation of doing very well. So far as it goes, the policy of not expanding the capacity where it is available in the private sector, it is all right for themselves. I have nothing to say. But what I am unable to understand is..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: My question is what the reservation is in the Defence Ministry for importing technology because the technology in electronics abroad is going by leaps and bounds and this is one undertaking where if they want to mixmise production and optimist productivity. I am unable to understand how they will do it unless they are going to import technology. There should be no reservation (*Interruptions*)

B part of my question is, so far as the foreign exchange is concerned they have potential to export and earn foreign exchange. So why not import technology, upgrade your technology and go in for exports and modernisation? What reservation do you have ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, Bharat Electronics Limited is the premier electronics manufacturer in the whole country not only in the defence sector....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Answer his question. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Not only in the Defence sector; 74 per cent indigenisation has taken place and 26 per cent is still imported.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, I seek your protection... (*Interruptions*)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already praised your performance.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, I have a list of foreign collaborations already entered into by this Company in order to achieve technology upgradation. There is no reservation of technology import whatso ever... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is agreeable with you.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: There are major foreign collaborations. I have got a list for defence uses... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are willing to improve your technology. That is all.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: There is no reservation. It depends on the state of the technology that we want.

**लघु उद्योगों को कोयले की आपूर्ति**

*63. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में लघु उद्योगों को कोयले की आपूर्ति नहीं की जा रही है ;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान लघु तथा माध्यम उद्योगों द्वारा राज्यवार कुल कितनी मात्रा में कोयले का उपभोग किया गया और गत दो वर्षों के दौरान इन उद्योगों को कोयले की मांग कितनी थी ; और